

AMERICAN INDIAN DAY

KNOW YE ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That I, Sherman Coolidge, President of The Society of American Indians, by virtue of power in me vested by the Executive Council of the Society do hereby declare the Second Saturday in the month of May, each year henceforth, "American Indian Day," and call upon every person of American Indian ancestry to specially observe this day as one set apart as a memorial to the Red Race of America and to a wise consideration of its future.

In the judgment of wise and impartial men, the heroic struggle of our fathers against forces which they had no means of measuring or appreciating, yet which they fought against for homes, for family, for country and the preservation of native freedom, has no parallel in all history. Yet while we consider these things we are not unmindful that they made upon occasions the same mistakes that have been common to all human kind, of every race and age,—and yet were virtuous men. Now that the glory and the shadows of the past have become a part of historic record that has been written, we are not to forget the present and the future of our people, that we may henceforth live in greater fullness. Let us now move forward and acquire all those things that make races and nations more efficient and more noble; let us reach out for a larger life, through brotherly love, purposeful action and constructive service to our country, not only for our own welfare, but in order that the American people and all humanity may be uplifted because we have performed, and strive to perform, our full duty as men. Let these things, and this means by which they be accomplished, be considered upon American Indian Day.

Likewise do we invite every American who loves his country and would uphold his honor and dignity, to celebrate this day and to consider our early philosophy, our love of freedom, our social institutions and our history in the full light of truth and in the balances of justice, in honest comparison with the annals of other races, and to draw therefrom those noble things that we believe are worthy of emulation. But we call upon our country not only to consider the past but to earnestly consider our present and our future as a part of the American people. To them we declare our needs now and tomorrow as those primarily of Americans struggling for enlightenment and that competency that is consistent with American citizenship. We do avow our hopes and our destiny inseparably united to that of the people of the United States of America and that our hearts and minds are now and forever loyal to our country, which we would serve in our fullest capacity as men and Americans.